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Broome County Legislature
60 Hawley Street
Binghamton, NY 13901

To: Broome County Legislators

In an article that appeared in last week's ***Press and Sun Bulletin***, Senator Fred Akshar admitted that while working as a Captain at the Broome County Sheriff's Office, he had sexual relations with a crime victim in a case where he was the lead investigator. The defendant was unfortunately granted a new trial after appeal. Fortunately, Special Prosecutor Chris Grace secured a conviction for Murder in the First Degree after retrial.

However, Mr. Akshar's behavior in conducting a relationship with a crime victim was improper and compromised his position as a witness subject to cross examination by a defense attorney. Mr. Akshar was not called as a witness at the retrial. In that same article, Broome County Sheriff David Harder stated that he was "unaware of Akshar's involvement" and "there is nothing against it in our policy or any other agency's policy as far as I know".

In light of this, I respectfully request that the Broome County Legislature review the current rules and procedures and subsequently draft language to prohibit such conduct in the future. A good example of an appropriate guideline meant to prohibit these types of actions can be found in the "International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Standards of Conduct".

"An officer shall not engage in social or romantic relationships with confidential informants or victims or witnesses involved in active cases." Active would include trial cases still on appeal.

These guidelines could be presented to each of our local police agencies in the hope that they would adopt this language or similar guidelines into each of the department's standards of conduct for police officers.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please contact me at your earliest convenience. I look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael A. Korchak". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, stylized 'M' and 'K'.

Michael A. Korchak